Minutes of a meeting of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee held on Monday, January 10, 2010 commencing at 2:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario.

Committee: Chair Peter Papp, Councillor Dave Augustyn, Ms. Sandy Bird, Ms. Marion Dawson, Mr. Ross Gillett (Vice Chair), Councillor Bob Saracino

Staff: Ms. Kim Koz, Manager Fleet Services; Mr. Kumar Ranjan, Transportation Services, Ms. Penny Pitt, Clerks Department.

Regrets: Councillor Vance Badawey; Ms. Karen Cudmore; Ms. Anita MacKenzie

**Quorum**

There being a lack of ordinary quorum, Chair Papp determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to five members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 96-2007.

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CO CHAIR**

1. Councillor Papp called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee.

   **Moved by Councillor Bob Saracino**
   **Seconded by Sandy Bird**

   That Councillor Papp be re-appointed for the position of Chair of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee.

   **Carried.**

Councillor Papp called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Chair of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee.

There being no other nominations with the agreement of Councillor Papp he was declared Chair of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee.
Councillor Papp assumed the Chair for the balance of the meeting and called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee.

Moved by Sandy Bird  
Seconded by Councillor Dave Augustyn

That Ross Gillett be appointed Vice-Chair of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee.  

Carried.

Councillor Papp called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Papp declared Ross Gillett Vice-Chair of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

2. Report 7-2009

Moved by Marion Dawson  
Seconded by Ross Gillett

That Report 7-2009, being the minutes of the Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee meeting of November 2, 2009, be received.  

Carried.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

3. Draft Letter to Regional Chair and Municipalities re: NST Operating Results

Chair Papp has drafted correspondence to the Regional Chair and municipalities to provide pertinent information and awareness of the current NST Operating Results Report. Chair Papp has decided to wait until after the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 28, 2010 regarding Inter Municipal Transit has taken place to redraft this correspondence. The accomplishments of the NST to date will form part of the discussions at the COTW meeting where a decision will hopefully be made regarding the Inter Municipal Transit (IMT).

It was also reported that there is 3.1 million allocated in the Capital Budget in anticipation of the IMT and funds for transit buses. Mr. Gillett stated that he was pleasantly optimistic for the future of the NST following the last COTW
meeting held on October 29, 2009. Ms. Bird questioned whether five (5) buses would be enough and Ms. Koz replied that five buses would be sufficient for now. The present five buses are at the end of the life cycle and breaking down frequently. This has left only three available for service at times. Ms. Koz has been looking into renting or leasing an additional bus to assist with breakdown coverage until the replacement buses are received. It is difficult to lease a bus without a driver. The Red Cross is in agreement with leasing a bus with the present terms and conditions of their contract and lease agreement with the region.

If a future dialysis unit is located in Niagara Falls, the ridership may drop and then Chair-a-Van will provide transportation to the unit. Currently the situation is being carefully monitored.

Committee members questioned whether the Ministry of Transportation should be approached to amend the standard of 5 year term to a reduced 4 year term. It was also suggested to request from Region to Minister Bradley to expedite the purchasing of the new buses.

4. Advertising for New Members

Previous advertisement for members on the IMSTAC committee will be obtained, reviewed, revised and clarified with the Regional Clerk and Communications Department.

**NIAGARA SPECIALIZED TRANSIT UPDATE**


Kim Koz reported that ridership over the same period in 2008 has increased by approximately 35% showing phenomenal growth. The NST has exceeded the year end goal of 10,000 rides as 10,934 rides were taken. Niagara Falls continues to have the largest ridership. The cost per ride is approximately $40.00


In follow up to a request from Councillor Augustyn at the September 21, 2009 IMSTAC meeting, Ms. Koz provided a report to the committee of clients using the NST from Regional Long Term Care facilities, from Private Care facilities and a comparison of registered clients to the number of clients actually using the NST.

- 57 or 52% of total registered clients used the service
- 18 or 32% of clients who used the service were from Regional Long Term Care facilities
- 39 or 68% of clients who used the service were from Private Care facilities.
Committee members suggested including in the next survey Stamford Kiwanis Manor and the Shaver Hospital for therapy.

A letter of thanks from the committee will be sent to the Red Cross for all their efforts.

Moved by Councillor Augustyn  
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Reports Niagara Specialized Transit Operating Results from Jan 1 – Dec. 31, 2009 and NST Long-Term Care Facility Statistics be accepted.  

Carried  


Ms. Koz apprised the committee of the current definition of a medical appointment. “An appointment with a medical/health practitioner or institution providing medical services all licensed and/or funded by the Province of Ontario”. Ms. Koz stated that facilities such as YMCA provide rehabilitative services but do not fall under the present definition of being funded by the province. Therefore it is recommended that the following revision to the definition of a medical appointment be made:

“A medical appointment is defined as an appointment with a medical/health practitioner, alternative therapy provider or institution providing medical or therapeutic services.”

Moved by Ross Gillett  
Seconded by Marion Dawson

That the revisions to the definition of medical appointment be made to include alternative therapy provider or institution providing medical or therapeutic services.  

Carried  

8. Niagara Health System Update

Kumar Ranjan apprised the committee that data has been received from the Niagara Health System to help profile the patient arrival information to the hospitals and is being analyzed. The data relates to the inpatient volumes, day surgery visits, emergency visits, oncology and dialysis visits and so forth. This information will help in the Phase 2 of the Inter-Municipal Transit Study wherein the service design will be considered.
Mr. Ranjan informed the committee that a member of the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) gave a presentation at the NHS-TIP committee on Dec 7, 2009 that detailed why transportation is important; what type of initiatives have been put in place; the types of transportation available in the HNHB LHIN area; the types of transportation available and their exclusions; shortfalls (lack of affordability and availability in off hours) and the unknowns; the challenges in Niagara and in the rural areas; what should be considered and the opportunities in Niagara and elsewhere. For the ramp off Hwy 406 near the intersection of Fourth Avenue, the draft Terms of Reference have been forwarded to Ministry of Transportation for comments.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

9. Moved by Sandy Bird  
   Seconded by Ross Gillett  
   That the following correspondence be received for information:
   
   IMSTAC 1-2010   A NRPS article entitled Limousine and Paratransit Inspections  
   IMSTAC 2-2010   A NRPS article entitled Illegal Taxicab Operation in St. Catharines Results in Charges  
   Carried

**OTHER BUSINESS**

10. There was no other business to report at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 2:45 p.m. and to meet again on Monday, February 22, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

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Councillor Papp                     Penny Pitt  
Chair                                Administrative Assistant  
                                         Council Support